

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1911.



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18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

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THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

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## OFFICERS.

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### *Commissioners.*

HAROLD PARKER.            THEODORE L. HARLOW.  
JOHN T. BURNETT.

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### *Superintendent.*

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM.  
ADDRESS, PRINCETON, MASS.



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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## REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

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The commissioners beg to report that the appropriation made by the county to cover the cost of maintenance, repairs, etc., of the reservation for the year 1910, was \$8,000.

It was possible to apply the larger portion of this appropriation to the improvement of the reservation lands, the expenditures on the hotel during the previous three years having interfered with this work. These expenditures had been made necessary, as already reported, owing to the dilapidated condition of the buildings, which would have become practically useless had not these expenses been incurred.

During the year 1910 Administration Road was completed, — which is 8,400 feet in length, and is now in good condition for horse-drawn vehicles and automobiles, — and a large amount of work in reforestation was done. These improvements are more fully referred to in the superintendent's report, which is annexed hereto.

The commissioners desire to say that out of the \$8,000 received from the county in 1910 it was necessary to expend \$2,000 in building the annex to the hotel, thus reducing the amount available for ordinary care.

In this connection it would be appropriate for your commissioners to quote an extract from the report of 1909, referring to the amount which has been expended out of the county appropriations for the years 1907, 1908 and 1909, amounting, approximately, to \$12,000 : —

Your commissioners desire in this report to repeat the statement in their report covering the year 1907, — that in their opinion the expenditure for remodelling the hotel at the summit is a proper one for the State to bear, it being, in fact, a part of the reservation, and consequently included in the property of the State, in which the county has no title. The meaning and intent of the act establishing the reservation was that the State should purchase the property and the county should maintain the same. The hotel at the time of purchase was in a state of practical debilitation, and if it had been allowed to remain in that condition it would to-day have been practically worthless. It therefore does not seem proper to your commissioners that under these conditions the county should be required to remodel and make habitable the property of the State.

Had the commissioners been in a position to apply this amount to the improvement of the reservation, it would have been in a very much better condition to-day, as regards protection from fire, as well as convenience to the public in visiting the various interesting spots within its borders.

The reservation has gained largely in popularity during the year covered by this report, an increase in visitors, including automobilists, having been very noticeable; and there is no doubt that the reservation is becoming more and more popular as a resort as time goes on and the improvements become known to the residents of the State.

HAROLD PARKER,  
THEODORE L. HARLOW,  
JOHN T. BURNETT,

*Commissioners.*

JAN. 1, 1911.



## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

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*To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.*

GENTLEMEN:—I am pleased to report that the various plans decided upon as the best policy in the management of the reservation have progressed in a most satisfactory manner.

The Administration Road is now open to the public and makes a beautiful drive. One can now start at the South Road, and, by following the Administration, North and Mountain roads, have a delightful four-mile drive to the summit, through the heart of the reservation. The main feature in this system of roads is the great advantage in case of fire, and I would advise adding others to it. I had hoped we might be able to build a macadam road to the summit, but as this now seems impossible, owing to the expense, I would advise extensive repairs. There is a gravel pit on the North Road a mile and a half from the summit, and with this we could put the Mountain Road in first-class condition. As we have about six miles of road on the reservation now, it is quite an item to keep them in repair, as they consist mostly of steep grades.

The Annex was started early in the spring and completed in time to be used through the summer. This is an attractive and a much-needed addition to the Summit House. It contains nine chambers, a pool room, laundry and wood shed. The frames, sidings, roof and under floors were built from lumber cut on the reservation. With this addition to the Summit House we now have quite a modern hotel, capable of accommodating about thirty-five guests. Run under your supervision during the past season, a general satisfaction seemed to prevail among the patrons.

The furniture is old, but we may be able to add a little to it each year. The one bad feature about making the hotel a paying investment is the difficulty in transportation to the

summit. As it is three miles to the nearest electrics and eight to the nearest steam line, one can imagine the disadvantage. A two-mile addition to the electric road would remove this difficulty to a large extent.

A five-acre piece of worn-out mowing was seeded down, and a good crop saved the necessity of buying hay, as in the past. There are about forty acres of mowing on the reservation that I hope, in time, to treat in this manner.

Twenty-three thousand white pine seedlings were transplanted in different sections of the reservation and are doing well. These were all grown in our nursery.

A much-needed addition was made to the barn at headquarters, and quite a little repairing done to the buildings on the reservation.

The police patrol was carried on in the usual manner.

Respectfully submitted,

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

*Superintendent.*

PRINCETON, MASS., Jan. 1, 1911.



